

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

Last **First** **M.**
Vickery Donna Grace
(Please Print)

c/o Valene M Hackney
25783 West Miami St

Buckeye AZ 85326
(current) Address City State Zip Code

406-855-2193
Phone Number

donna@buckingv.com
email

I, the undersigned, Donna Grace Vickery, do hereby make the following statement to Trey Bays, he having first identified himself as a New Mexico Livestock Board Brand Inspector, District 10, knowing that I may have an attorney in my behalf present and that I do not have to make any statement nor incriminate myself in any manner. I make this statement voluntarily, of my own free will, knowing that such statement could later be used against me in any court of law, and I declare that this statement is made without any threat, coercion, offer of benefit, favor or offer of favor, leniency or offer of leniency by any person or persons whomsoever.

Victim: Daughter - Sterrin J Hackney, Billings MT, occupation: correctional officer, MT State Women's prison, Billings, MT, former brand inspector with Montana State Department of Livestock; legal owner of lost horse. [Box 31045 841 S 26th St, Billings, MT 59107, email: needforsteed@yahoo.com, cell: 406-839-3296.

Complainant: Mother – Donna Grace Vickery, agent for horse deal & transactions (author of this report)

Last known possessors of our lost horse:

Carrie Freeland (mother) / DBA **Curly Horse Express** horse & livestock transport
18250 Stewart Ave, Homewood, IL 60430
email: redroan77@gmail.com,
Phone: 574-205-2207
webpage: facebook.com/Vaquera.XoXo

and **Nicole (Bobbi) VanderHeyden** (minor daughter) DBA **BnB Ranch Horses** horse trading
said to be living with boyfriend Armando Benito Bibian in Chicago Heights, IL
email: bobbinicole1996@yahoo.com
phone: 574-230-3355
webpage: facebook.com/[groups?]/BNBRanchHorses

Horse Deal: An agreement was made between Donna G Vickery, and last known possessor of lost horse, Carrie Freeland, Illinois. On May 9th, a hand written copy of our agreement was sent with Trooper, along with his coggins and a copy of his AQHA paperwork, and his lifetime brand inspection in Sterrin Hackney's name. The health had been done by Jeff Peila DVM of Shepherd MT for Trooper selling to Joe Bruce for \$3500, retired brand inspector from Lame Deer, MT, now of Colorado, BUT Joe fell & broke his neck and was unable to take Trooper. Then Carrie and I came up with this plan and I called Dr Peila to change the address on the health from Joe's address to Carrie. I don't remember what that address was, I only remember I recited to (Jeff or Susie?), what Carrie told me.

Actual Agreement: "Trooper," AQHA Crow Fair Hancock AQHA-4904280 2005 green-broke roan gelding, 16.1 hh, 1425 lbs, (horse) valued at \$3500 belonging to family (Donna, Sterrin & Valene, permanent brand inspected owned in Sterrin's name, freeze branded on left shoulder with Sterrin & Valene Hackney's brand) was permitted to be taken by Carrie Freeland to the Chicago IL area for a few months until we sold him. Carrie and Donna agreed that Carrie Freeland and daughter, Nicole VanderHeyden were responsible for safekeeping, and any financial investment of hauling, reasonable care & any (optional) additional riding and/or training they wished to put into him from May 9, 2014 to fall 2014, in anticipation of further increasing horse's value. Any profits above \$3500 may be kept by Carrie and/or Nicole, when horse is ready to sell, which is expected to be in 90 days of riding, or fall 2014. In fall of 2014, a sale is anticipated, in which Donna would do the marketing (thru hancockhorses.com) and Sterrin would get \$3500 of sale price, anything over that to go to Carrie and Bobbi.

This was the actual agreement made between Carrie A Freeland and I, on May 9, 2014. I wrote out a copy of it, and sent it with her for her reference, but neglected to get a signed copy of it for myself (we were way out in the country, in Huntley, and she needed to get on the road, and I trusted her.)

June 2014. Got call from Carrie while out on road, who reported Trooper was doing so well, she thought she would be able to get so much for him that she would give me more than the \$3500 I agreed to. I was thrilled it was going so well, and happy we had made this agreement. I still did not expect to receive any more than \$3500.

July 2014. Good reports, but horse was said to still be a little insecure when ridden.

August 2014. Short answers, no detailed reports given when asked. From people who contacted me later, he may have had strangles this month. (?) I was busy moving, and went to Phoenix AZ to visit my other daughter Valene.

September 2014. No reports given, no answers given when asked about Trooper except, I will get back to you. From people who contacted me, (and a video Carrie made sometime that late summer or fall 2014 that I saw in January 2015) they may have stifled Trooper, or he may have come up lame somewhere around this time. (?) But I am not sure about this.

Oct 9, 2014, Nicole (Bobbi) contacted me by PM on FB and indicated she no longer wanted to be part of this deal. I was taken completely by surprise: No reason was given when asked why. Nicole then defriended and blocked me on FB.

Oct 10 or 11, I received a phone call from Carrie, who indicated that the deal was not turning out how she wanted it to, and she had now decided to no longer honor our agreement. She changed her mind and wanted to be reimbursed for all the expenses she had invested in Trooper (she trades for most horse deals, so only she knows what that amount was in dollars), including alleged training, feed, board, farrier, worming, vet - and she threatened to add a bill for hauling the horse from Montana to Illinois if I refused to pay her at once. I told her I did not owe her any money for her risk because the agreement was, that was up to her; her project and her risk; that my risk was the horse believed to be worth \$3500, and worth potentially up to double that amount if ridden and trained well. After a few minutes of conversation, Carrie then presented me with a claim that I cheated her because I sent a low-value ("\$1200 hack") horse to her. Soon after that she claimed I had lied to her, and that Trooper was not even green broke and that no one had ever even been on his back before she received him. 20 or 30 minutes into the conversation, she said that Trooper became lame when worked hard, and that she believed that was from an old scar on his heel from an injury he received when young. Then she said, business is business, and I owed her money, and I would never see Trooper again if I did not pay up.

I responded by saying,

- 1) That is not the deal we agreed to.
- 2) Trooper never took a lame step in his life, and I had no reason to believe he would come up lame now from an old scar, and that Sterrin had ridden him probably harder than they had. I asked for videos or vet reports.
- 3) If anything really has changed, then we need to discuss what might work for us all. If she could not meet me, then I would come get him so that she did not incur any additional expenses until we figured out what to do, and could communicate by email with Sterrin as well (and so as to have a written account of any further communications).

Carrie then informed me that she had filed a lien on this horse against me (proven untrue), had the police out (I doubt that too), and that 30 days had passed (since what?), and that I now owed her \$1200 or \$2100 (she told me different amounts at different times in the conversation) on him, and Trooper was not going anywhere until that was paid to her satisfaction. She refused to discuss our original agreement or any other solutions (or even what the problem was) any further, said she was unwilling to work on solutions by email, and hung up. Then she blocked me on facebook.

October 22, 2014. I got Carrie Freeland's mailing address from some people who were suing Carrie (DBA Curly Horse Express). I mailed a certified letter to Carrie advising her that she did not have legal ownership of this horse, and that she did not have my nor my daughter's permission to sell this horse. I again offered to come retrieve the horse at my own expense. And I told her to let me know ASAP what she decided. I never heard back from her. I have paperwork from the USPS that shows she was given notice, but did not pick up that certified letter.

She and Bobbi then began a campaign to sell Trooper themselves on the internet, apparently to keep the proceeds for themselves.

For the following days/weeks I called all law officials and court systems I could think of in Will & Cook counties. I was told Carrie Freeland would not be able to file a lien against my horse without a court judgment granting her claim (which was not the case because we would have to be served for that to happen). I was not allowed to enter a police report of what happened over the phone. I did not know what to do. I made a lot of calls for many days.

At some point I contacted the Montana Dept of Livestock, at first by email, and then by leaving messages by phone, but I cannot remember when that was exactly. Matt Noyse took my case, but did not have time to do much with it for a while.

November 2014. I saw a Uship post where Carrie DBA Curly Horse Express was trying to convince a man to hire her to transport his horse from the Chicago IL area to the El Paso TX area. Seeing that, I got very worried that she might take Trooper to friends in the southwest, and hide him from me, or ship him to Mexico to slaughter. I had also gotten the physical address/location of the barn where Carrie kept Trooper from the people who were suing Carrie, and I drove 2000 miles with my pickup truck and trailer from Phoenix Arizona to Beecher Illinois and arrived at the barn on Nov 21, 2014, accompanied by Jay Jackson. The barn was located at approximately 3300 East Kentucky Road, Beecher Illinois (Will County) south of Chicago IL, ¼ mi west of the Indiana state border, owned by Francisco Campos & Alex (something), and leased by Carrie's friend, Javier Maldonado. I planned to find Trooper and pick him up, or at the very least, file a police report in person (they wouldn't take it over the phone). There were 80 to 100 horses there, what appeared to be fighting (game) chickens in cages, and a number of campers camping behind the barn – but Trooper the horse was nowhere to be found. I had called the county sheriff office in advance, and 3 patrol cars came out near the barn and met me, and we discussed what options were left to me. I was told by one deputy that I could not file a report in person either, because when it came to personal property, it was very hard for officers of the law to become involved, because it was largely a he-said she-said (civil claim) situation, and they feared being sued, and Carrie was probably experienced at pulling this kind of thing off. However, the actual ownership of the horse is a provable legal fact, and that can be acted upon. Repossession is my right, and they would support my actions doing so - with the proper ownership paperwork, when I found the horse, they would accompany or escort me on any premises to retrieve my horse. I returned home and continued researching.

December 24, 2014. I finally gave up looking by myself, and started asking the public for help on facebook in finding Trooper. I was very careful to only post the truth; facts and questions in my search for Trooper. I conducted a fact finding campaign. Carrie conducted a smear campaign against me in response (I was not surprised by that and was braced for it). But I felt I had run out of options; it was either that or give up. Carrie sent word to me thru mutual friends on facebook that she had confiscated Trooper legally, upon advice of the Illinois Dept of Ag, the sheriff dept, the police, and the courts. And that she sold Trooper to a family with kids in California and they loved him, and that I would never find him or get him back.

December 28th, Nicol called me and informed me that she worked as a vet tech for Paul E McCune DVM [13712 W 135th Ave, Cedar Lake, Indiana 46303; (219) 374-5545], and that Carrie brought Trooper to Dr McCune to get a health on Trooper when she transported him out of Illinois. She would not tell me where she took Trooper, or if they sold Trooper, and claimed she didn't know, but she told me she would look up the name and address that was on the health and give that information to me the next day at work. But she never did.

Dec 31st. I used the veterinarian's name to find his contact information and called Dr McCune on Wednesday. I asked him for the information on Trooper's health so that I could find him. He told me if I could provide him with the coggins and/or the legal ownership information that proved I was agent/owner of Trooper, he would give me that information. I faxed him a copy I had kept of the coggins that he would have used in writing the health in November for Carrie and Bobbi. I did not hear back from Dr McCune.

Jan 2015. I called Dr McCune again, on January 7th, and still did not hear back from him. The office left a voicemail message stating they were closed that week due to a bad blizzard. I again faxed him all the ownership info and coggins again, and all my contact information, in case he did not receive it the first time. Then I waited until I thought he should be back to work. I called Dr McCune on Jan 12, again on Jan 15, Jan 17, and on Jan 20th. He refused to answer any of my calls, and did not get back to me.

I contacted the county sheriffs & left messages with NM Brand inspectors when a couple sources told me that Trooper was probably in New Mexico. Don Hatfield called me back when I thought Trooper was in the Ruidoso area. Nice guy.

January 29th I received a screen shot from a girl currently having a conversation with Carrie right then about the veterinarian and Trooper's health papers. Carrie indicated in this text that Trooper did not go to the address that was on his health papers.

My search for Trooper continued. I had a LOT of people help me over those weeks ... and finally... I was told by an anonymous source that Trooper definitely was in Sunland Park, NM. So I narrowed my search to that area.

Feb 2, 2015, Tito called me 7pm Monday,
[from his girlfriend's phone: Anne Ghrist, Del Mar, CA (girlfriend)
[https://www.facebook.com/anne.ghrist].

He sounded agitated that I did not call him yet and that he had to call me; he thought the brand inspector had given me his number. I told him, I had been looking for him since November, and did not know who he was, where he was, or his number. He said he was upset that Carrie was still causing problems for him. I told him I was sorry for the part I played in this "drama" or if it caused him any grief, but, that was the only way I was able to find Trooper. He told me this Trooper deal with Carrie was only the tip of the iceberg. He told me he does have Trooper, and that he accepted Trooper in lieu of a debt of over \$6000+ [which I was told by another person might make this a felony larceny case?] owed to him by Carrie for boarding 2 or 3 of her horses with him for almost 2 years. He told me he didn't want any trouble, because he was a business man. He told me he ran a quarantine station at his barn, and helped people who transported horses over state lines, and the Mexican border. I asked him why, if he was worried about his reputation, would he take a branded horse, in a brand state (Sunland Park, New Mexico) without a legal bill of sale and proper ownership & brand inspection paperwork? Of all people he should know better. He told me he had never seen the horse, did not even like the horse, and his hired help did not know any better about checking paperwork, and that Carrie delivered him at 3 am, and that he was in California, so he did not know he took possession of stolen property. He asked me if I would pay him Carrie's debt to get Trooper back. I told him, that was Carrie's and his agreement, not my obligation, and that he would have to take that up with her, but that if he wanted to prosecute her, I would be happy to help him or be a witness. When I asked him, he refused to tell me his real name or address. So when I got off the phone, I researched, and found out who he was:

Humberto "Tito" Quirarte, Sunland Park, NM
hquirarte@yahoo.com [480-227-4755; Anne Ghrist (girlfriend's) phone]
https://www.facebook.com/humberto.quirarte

I tried to include everything in this report that is relevant. If there is anything that I left out that you need to know more about, contact me any time.

Signature of Person giving voluntary statement:

[signed]

February 09, 2015

Donna G Vickery

Date

Witnesses

I have read this statement consisting of 4 page(s) and of all the claims contained therein that I witnessed and/or was a party to, all are true and correct. Please contact me for additional details.

Valene Hackney WITNESS	623-666-2265 Phone Number	spookedfilly@yahoo.com email	Buckeye AZ place
02-09-2015 Date	3:30 pm time		
Tian "Jay" Jackson WITNESS	623-476-6788 Phone Number	jayson_paul3@yahoo.com email	Buckeye AZ place
02-09-2015 Date	4:00 pm time		